

CHA Faces Problems Of Money

The Columbia Housing Authority needs money and it has turned to the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the City Council for help.

The elderly and the handicapped, an often ignored minority in Columbia, are remembered by someone. That someone is the Columbia Housing Authority, which recently completed a highrise building at Paquin and Waugh streets for these groups. But those groups are not the only ones worrying the housing authority. For 17 years the Columbia Housing Authority has sought to provide housing for low income families and individuals. The years have not been trouble-free. Dwain Hovis, executive director, said, but previous difficulties always could be solved by the local authority. Such is not the case today. The authority faces a seemingly insurmountable problem — a lack of money. Yet, while the housing authority officials struggle for a solution, public housing tenants do not seem too worried about the authority's financial headaches. Jim Stieber, who lives in the Paquin-Waugh building, said, "Rent is definitely going to go up, but when they

HUD charges that the housing authority should be mixing income levels.

opened they said they were going to re-evaluate our income every year — it's in the contract." Another resident agreed. "They raise it when we get a raise." Therefore, current tenants are not worried about cutbacks and rate hikes because they know the authority only can raise their rents in proportion to the increase in their incomes.

PERSONS WHO WILL be affected by the authority's financial problems are those on the waiting list to rent units. Hovis said the authority has "rejected 20 to 25 families because we felt their income was too low."

The question of acceptable tenant income levels has been a major source of controversy between the housing authority and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) officials in recent budget disputes.

Fred Porterfield, HUD assistant regional director of housing management, said a directive was issued in 1971 urging local authorities to seek an income mixture in the housing units. By renting to more higher income families, a mixture of income levels would be created and the total rent income would be raised.

Local officials, however, say they never heard of this report on Columbia Housing Authority problems was written by Kerry Lyman, Tom Mast and Dave Riley of The Missouriian's special reporting team on government and politics.

such a directive, nor do they think it is the solution. Larry Marshall, attorney for the authority, said the first time the authority learned of the necessity to mix income levels was at a recent meeting between HUD and the local authority.

HUD charges that if the authority had been mixing income levels, it would not have the current budget problems.

Hovis said creating income levels, and in particular putting people on a waiting list, is "one way of circumventing the law. Why put their name on a list and give them hope for something they may never get?" he said.

HUD OFFICIALS ARGUE that renting strictly to the lowest income families is discriminatory because those with higher incomes still may need the housing authority's help.

But Hovis says, "The higher income families are the mobile ones. Their luck improves, they find a job and no longer need public housing." Lower income families, on the other hand, tend to stay in public housing once they rent a unit and seldom move out, he said.

So, to Hovis, a waiting list is "just one way of not rejecting them but sticking to Title IX of the Equal Rights Amendment," which says that a housing authority cannot reject anyone.

Hovis says the authority has 15 to 20 vacancies in the Crossroads project and about 50 vacancies in the highrise for the handicapped and elderly at Paquin and Waugh. Both of these places could be filled "if we wanted to put in very, very low income people, but we just can't."

As the small local agency at the bottom of the regional and national branches of HUD, the Columbia authority has been struggling with both upper offices of HUD for a subsidy it says it must have to operate until the end of the fiscal year, Sept. 30.

HUD, however, says the authority is entitled only to

The Council loan was approved July 23, but difficulties ensued.

\$36,000, while the agency says HUD owes it \$189,000. The crux of the dispute seems to revolve around the interpretation of the Brooke Amendment adopted in 1971.

An amendment to the original 1937 HUD bill, it provides that a local housing authority may collect as rent no more than 25 per cent of a family's or individual's income.

"THE BROOKE AMENDMENT effectively decreases the money we can raise," Dave Abel, authority accountant, said. "That means theoretically we can have a tenant paying zero."

Abel says, "The amendment specifically states that money lost renting to low income people would be made up by the government."

While HUD officials do agree that housing authorities can qualify for subsidies, they do not agree with this interpretation of the Brooke Amendment. "HUD can't provide all these things — we simply don't have the funds," Porterfield said.

In order to avoid future monetary problems, Hovis (Continued on Page 16)

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City Spending Council Increases Budget Slightly

By Martha Tanis
Missourian Staff Writer

Limited debate gave way to minor changes as the City Council Thursday night reviewed and increased slightly City Manager Don Allard's proposed \$17.7 million city budget for the 1973-74 fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

The proposed budget of \$17,693,000 was increased to \$17,709,955. This represents a \$2,426,955 increase — about 15 per cent — in spending over the 1972-73 budget of \$15.4 million.

Additional funds are needed to finance a \$400,000 city employee salary and wage increase, rising costs of maintaining present equipment and purchasing additional materials and

for expanded programs in various city departments.

To provide such funds, the Council was required to make major revenue decisions concerning rates levied on electrical energy, property, mixed refuse pickup and disposal and cigarette sales. The Council also had to decide on recommendations concerning federal revenue sharing allocations and fund transfers to various accounts.

ELECTRICAL ENERGY RATES: The Council passed an average 15 per cent electric rate increase ordinance, effective Oct. 1. Estimated income from the utility, anticipating the rate increase, is \$8,723,000;

proposed expenditures amount to \$7,375,650.

Black and Veatch, a Kansas City consulting firm, first proposed the restructured rate based on studies of Columbia's increasing power needs. According to one study, electric utility rates face an immediate 7.8 per cent deficit that will increase to 27.2 per cent by 1977 if present rates are maintained.

Additional revenue from an increased rate could be used to finance bond issues to fund plans recommended in another Black and Veatch study to meet the city's increasing power needs. One plan would cost the city \$19 million and calls for an additional power plant, new unit tie-ins

with existing plants and new water distribution lines.

PROPERTY RATES: A tax increase of 20 cents per \$100 assessed valuation was passed after some debate, but the increase represented no additional cash output for the taxpayer. The recommended levy of 85 cents for 1973-74 required transferring a 20 cent rate for the Daniel Boone Library Fund, which expired last year, into the General Fund.

Mayor Tom Annuerson said, "We don't necessarily like to do this, but feel it has to be done."

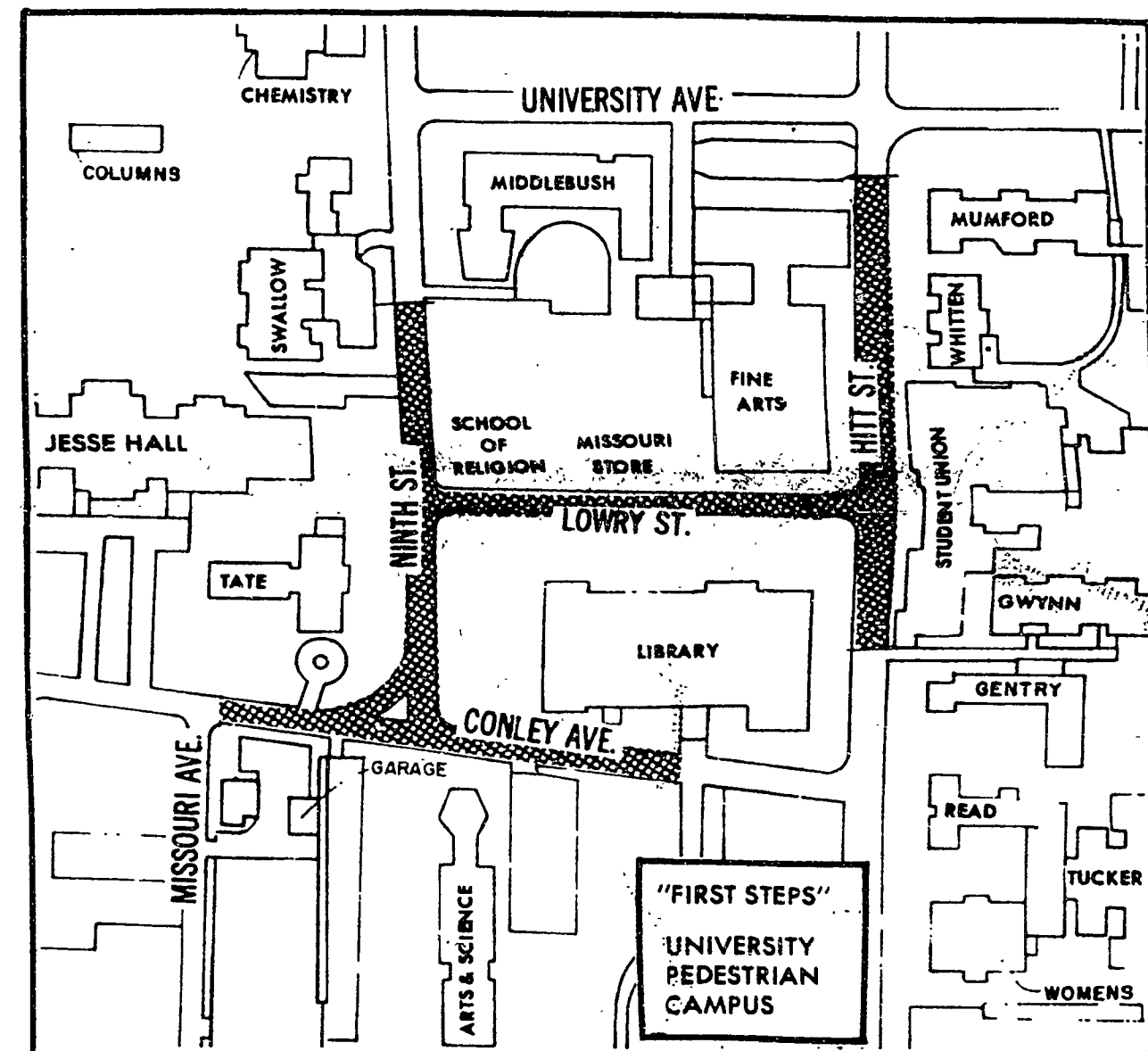
The assessed value of taxable property for 1973 is \$118,585,295, an increase of \$6,862,385 from 1972.

Estimated income to the city at the 85 cent per \$100 assessed value rate is in the budget at \$1,041,500.

MIXED REFUSE OPERATION RATES: The Council passed an amended ordinance which retained the original monthly increase of 50 cents for mixed refuse pickup and disposal. The general budget message said the increase was necessary to keep the service self-supporting.

The monthly rate per family unit of various classifications will be raised to \$2.75. Business and commercial enterprises will be charged 35 cents per collection minute. Monthly rates for establishments using bulk rate (Continued on Page 16)

Pedestrian Campus University, City to Consider Plan



THE SHADED AREAS of the map indicate the proposed street closings inaugurated by the first phase of the University's pedestrian campus plan.

Pedestrian Campus Plans Span 7 Years

By Richard M. Riebeling
Missourian Staff Writer

When the University receives final approval for implementing the pedestrian campus plan, it will mark only the beginning of nearly seven years of discussion, planning and revision.

Despite the time covered in discussion concerning the pedestrian campus, room for many of the original proposals has been found in the final plan.

As early as February 1967, the University Campus planning Committee worked out a master plan which would eliminate most vehicular traffic around the inner campus.

"We want to turn the heart of the campus over to the pedestrians not the cars," Dr. Robert Callis, the dean of the extra-divisional administration, told the committee.

In March 1967, Callis said plans were being finalized and hopefully would be made official by June.

Ideas included in the proposal, which apparently never was made official, included the closing of Lowry Street in front of the Elmer Ellis Library Building and a proposed mall extending from the Medical Center to Elm Street.

Eventually, Callis said, the University would be connected by a north-south mall as well as an east-west mall.

At the intersection of the malls, Callis said he envisioned a large

plaza, including a circular fountain making intersecting streams of pedestrian traffic circle and merge around the fountain.

Callis hoped this area would become the heart of the "functional campus" with University activities centering around the area.

Even in 1967, however, the planners realized problems might be encountered in attempting to close streets to motor traffic. Reacting to this possibility, the planning committee included plans for an overpass across Rollins Street.

Parking areas also were seen as a problem, so the planners included the possibility of building a high-rise parking garage on property acquired by the University on the east side of Ninth Street.

In March 1968, plans for the intersecting malls still were being finalized, Callis said, as any final decisions were totally dependent on funds.

The only development at this stage, was the installation of 36-minute parking meters on several inner campus streets and the total elimination of parking on others.

The final phase of the then-proposed pedestrian campus was the construction of the east-west mall from the Memorial Union to Mark Twain Residence Hall and extending the mall between the Medical Center and the Arts and Sciences Building down Ninth Street.

No further ideas surrounding a

pedestrian campus were circulated between 1969 and 1971. Callis said this may have been a result of a change in University architects.

In 1972, the problem of traffic congestion again became an important issue on campus.

Tom Gray, University assistant business officer, in February, 1972, said the University did plan to close the campus to traffic in the future.

Again, parking and directing traffic around the campus were cited as important considerations. Because of these problems and usual funding worries, Gray said he could not estimate the time or money required to complete the project.

At this time, the closing of Lowry Street between Ninth and Hitt Streets was the first objective. Gray said an agreement with the Missouri Book Store and the Missouri School of Religion first would have to be worked out. He added he would "be happy if this were accomplished in the next 12 months."

In October, however, the University decided not to go ahead with plans requesting the City Council to close Lowry Street.

On Dec. 11, Emmett Klinkerman, University business officer, said the University was undertaking a feasibility study for closing streets to pedestrian traffic.

An engineering consulting firm in St. Louis, Harland Bartholomew and Associates started a traffic study on (Continued on Page 16)

By Richard Riebeling
Missourian Staff Writer

University officials announced Thursday they plan to meet with city administrators next week to present for consideration the initial phase of the University's pedestrian plan.

Any action taken by the University, including the closing of city streets, first must have the approval of the City Council, as well as any affected private organizations and various University committees.

Emmett Klinkerman, University business officer, explained the stages in the pedestrian plan development and clarified problems surrounding it before possible inception.

KLINKERMAN REPEATEDLY said the proposal was tentative and that no action has been approved.

The University's Board of Curators passed a resolution Sept. 4 giving officials permission to begin obtaining permission of the necessary groups. The initial phase submitted before the Board included the closing of

Ninth Street from the driveway south of Middlebush Hall to Conley Avenue and closing Conley from Missouri Avenue to Kuhlman Court.

Other tentative proposals included the closing of Hitt Street south of the Fine Arts building parking lot to the service road immediately south of the Memorial Union. Lowry Street also was to be closed.

The closing hours would include only the normal classroom hours, 7:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., Monday through Friday. These hours would enable pedestrians to be off the streets before the five o'clock rush hour traffic through the University area.

The Board report noted that several other alternatives were discussed. Klinkerman also released those.

The Board ignored most of the suggestions in a Harland Bartholomew & Associates study released in April. Klinkerman said the University has developed some additional plans, but he had no idea when these could be implemented (Continued on Page 16)

Students, Policeman Save Injured Puppy

By Roger Campbell
Missourian Staff Writer

Man is dog's best friend. That's the point several University students and a University policeman proved midnight Sunday when they

assisted a seven-month-old puppy hit by a car at the corner of Rollins and Hitt streets.

Pam Urban, one of the students who saw the accident, said the small, reddish-brown pup walked into the path of an oncoming car. "It wasn't the driver's fault," she said. "He couldn't stop in time."

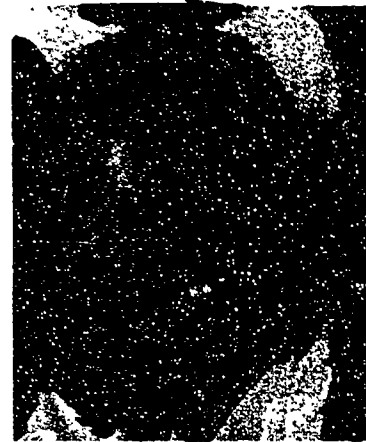
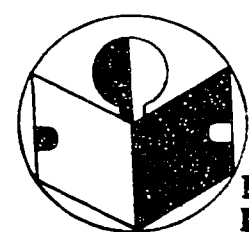
Miss Urban said the puppy struggled in pain on the wet pavement immediately after the accident. "It yelped pretty bad at the beginning," she said. She said she didn't think the dog belonged to anyone and was a "roamer," often seen around the area of the campus where the accident occurred.

Two other University students, Tom Seltzer and Gary Miller, both of Hudson Hall, also came to the dog's rescue when they heard the puppy's yelps. "The dog got up, limped over to the curb and tried to get up again, but collapsed," Seltzer said. "The dog was a brave little pup."

ARRIVING ON THE SCENE, University policeman William Dunlap offered to take the injured pup to the University Veterinary Clinic, where Seltzer and other students posted \$25 as down payment for the dog's treatment. One of those contributing was the driver of the car which hit the pup.

"We couldn't leave the animal in the street dying," Seltzer said. "I've seen too many dogs hit by cars before. All it was, was a mutt, but it made me feel a lot better to help." Seltzer, who covered the puppy with towels until the police arrived, said he "loved" dogs and had owned several as a boy in St. Louis.

The nameless dog underwent surgery Thursday morning at the University Veterinary Clinic for a (Continued on Page 15)



Bobby Riggs went out with an ouch instead of an oink, as Billie Jean King Thursday night defeated him in three straight sets. See Sports, Page 7.

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Birthdays

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